

Baltimore. In the latter respect he was outstanding even by American standards. He was a man of great force of character and an example and an inspiration to the many young men who came under his influence, including a number from Great

Britain who held fellowships in his department. In his own subject he stood head and shoulders above his contemporaries and his passing marks the end of an era in venereology in which he was the outstanding figure.  
A.J.K.

## BOOK REVIEW

**Non-Venereal Syphilis. A Sociological and Medical Study of Bejel.** By Ellis Herndon Hudson. 1958. Pp. 212, 106 figs. Livingstone, Edinburgh and London (30s.)

Dr. Hudson gave the outside world the term "bejel" which was the local word for a disease prevalent amongst Bedouin peasants which he recognized as a treponematoses. He studied this treponematoses closely during his 12 years' work as a medical missionary in the small Arab town of Deir-ez-Zor. This book is written about this experience and is based on the records of the bejel patients seen during his service amongst these Arab peoples, between 1924 and 1937. To those who have not read his previous monograph entitled "Treponematoses"—now out of print—this new publication will provide an opportunity of learning about his "unitarian" hypothesis of the origin of the treponematoses.

The substance of the book falls into three parts: the historical perspective of treponematoses, the clinical and serological picture of bejel in the three social groups of the Arab community in Deir-ez-Zor, and the particular form of treponematoses affecting each group. Modern transport has since brought the Bedouin to the town and has thus influenced his diseases, making the three social groups described by Hudson harder to recognize. This development lends added value to this book as a record of the social pattern of an Arab community a generation

ago. Bejel is described as a disease confined to the Bedouin, the nomad of the desert; in recent years at any rate it has been found to be equally prevalent, if not more so, amongst the static tribes, e.g. in the Jeboors who live along the banks of the Euphrates and Tigris. In fact, during 1951–52, the WHO team in Iraq found the highest incidence in the marsh Arabs.

The section on the clinical picture of bejel and its illustrations are both excellent. For those familiar with yaws, it provides an interesting comparison. The serological section has been written by Dr. Tuomioja, who was the Laboratory Adviser to the WHO, Bejel/Syphilis Project in Iraq (1950–51). In the main, the serology of bejel does not differ essentially from that of venereal syphilis.

The book contains a very interesting chapter on the experimental pathology of bejel incorporating extracts from "The Biology of the Treponematoses" by Turner and Hollander\*. Venereologists and Sociologists will find this chapter particularly instructive and illuminating.

Dr. Hudson has written this book for the sociologist and anthropologist as well as for those directly concerned with the treponematoses. Whether or not one accepts the author's main hypothesis, the book provides interesting reading.  
L.G.G.J.

\* Reviewed in this *Journal* (1957), 33, 199.